IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Re: Heinrich Lang, et al. Serial No. 10/643,163 Filed: 08/18/2003 For: CARRIER PLATE FOR MIRROR ASSEMBLY	Examiner: Assaf, Fayez G Group Art Unit 2872 Docket No. LMX-62-CPA-CON-2

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Response Under 37 CFR 1.112 to the PTO Action of 4/15/04

In The Specification

Please amend paragraph 1, page 1 as follows:

The present application is a continuation under 35 U.S.C. § 120 of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/295,110, filed November 15, 2002, (now U.S. Patent No. 6,702,499 B2) incorporated herein by reference, which is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/266,987 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,520,653 B1, filed March 12, 1999 which claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 to German Patent Application No. 198,40 004.7, filed September 2, 1998 in the German Patent Office.

Please amend paragraph 4, page 1 as follows:

An attempt at a solution to this problem is disclosed in German Patent Publication No. DE-A-40 10 083. In the mirror construction there given, the housing does not exert any carrying function. This carrying function was taken over by means of a holding apparatus onto which a securing means for the affixing of the mirror on a

commercial vehicle is fastened. The housing, and at least one mirror pane of the external mirror and an adjustment unit for the positioning of the mirror, are affixed to the holding apparatus. The disadvantage of this is that the carrier plate and the holding apparatus are of separate construction, leading to the danger that the stability of securement of the carrier plate in the holder is reduced. This is especially the case when – as shown in an embodiment of DE-A-40 10 083 – the housing is clamped between the holding apparatus and the carrier plate, since here, vibrations can be transferred easily to the carrier plate.

Please amend page 4, paragraph 2 as follows:

A first embodiment of the invention, with reference to Fig. 1, shows a longitudinal section through a first embodiment of the external mirror for vehicles in accord with the invention. The external mirror assembly encompasses a holder 2 – designated by a dotted line – for the fastening of the mirror onto the vehicle, a housing 4, with a housing base 6, which ~~extends~~ merges into a housing rim 8, and a covering 10. The housing base 6 is mounted on a carrier plate 12, on the front side of which an opening 14 and the positional adjustment unit 16 are disposed. On the adjustment unit 16, a mirror carrying plate 18 is mounted. Holding plate 20 is fitted to plate 18. A mirror pane 22, with the help of a clamping closure connection, is fixed to the holding plate 20.

Please amend page 5, paragraph 3 as follows:

As may be seen from the Figs. 2, 3 and 4, the carrier plate 12 also possesses connection elements 34 for the mounting of the housing base 6. ~~Also, it has a through~~ An opening 36 for the electrical connections to the adjustment device 16, as well as the opening 14 for the adjustment device 16 are provided. The connection elements 34,

and the opening 14 for the adjustment device 16 are made integrally with the carrier plate 12.

Please amend page 5, paragraph 5 as follows:

Referring now to the Figs. 7 to 11, a second embodiment of the invention is described with a carrier plate 50, which, likewise, is constructed with a base plate 52 with a honeycomb structure 26 on the front side and on the back side. Differentiated from the first embodiment in accord with Figs. 1 to 6, the base plate 52 of the carrier plate 50 is of one piece with ~~a~~ the housing base 54 and the housing rim 56. By means of the one piece construction including the housing rim 56, the housing 54 and the base plate 52 of the carrier plate 50, the number of separate components is reduced, so that the construction is simplified. Moreover, through this integration, a greater stability is achieved which positively influences the damping and vibration characteristics.